



Stephen & Kristin Pategas

in the garden *by Stephen and Kristin Pategas*

By The Numbers

Engagement with a garden offers numerous rewarding experiences. We brainstormed about what takes place in our garden, then after dinner in our garden room we headed further outside with glasses of wine and counted and counted – some counts were based upon educated guesses. Here are the results of what took place in our garden last year.

- 72times we ate outside in the screened garden room or on the open front terrace
- 4,000blooms appeared in the mature super-sized magnolia tree
- 26harvests of herbs (rosemary, lemon thyme and oregano) for Herbtinis
- 42culms/stalks comprise the clump of giant timber bamboo
- 55feet to the tips of the soaring giant timber bamboo
- 29dead fronds trimmed from three sabal palms in one session in the late winter
- 10trimmings of the dwarf Asian jasmine groundcover
- 17fillings of the bird feeder
- 9species of birds at the bird feeder or on the ground below it
- 1,825times a squirrel was foiled by the Squirrel Buster bird feeder
- 212sharpenings with a bastard file of one pair of Felco hand pruners
- 55trash bags full of oak leaves collected curbside for mulching plant beds
- 0cubic yards of pine bark mulch purchased
- 28bales of pine straw purchased for walkway mulching
- 144s.f. of raised vegetable beds
- 12bushels of produce harvested from the vegetable garden
- 9cabbages harvested
- 212jalapeno popper appetizers created from the fruits of one long lasting pepper plant
- 9different fragrant blooming plants including orchids
- 26pauses to search out and enjoy a fragrant blooming plant
- 28applications of algaecide to the water features
- 38days that toters of yard waste were wheeled to the curb
- 11species of birds in the water features
- 18cedar waxwings at our spouting fish water bowl at one time
- 62different species of succulents in our garden
- 98planted containers (downsized from 110 in 2014)
- 36Xeri-Bird devices with 216 tubes providing low volume irrigation to plants and container plants
- 28different species of native plants
- 4different species of bamboo (all clumping forms)
- 10different species of palms and cycads
- 8different species of creeping or climbing vines
- 12different cultivars of caladiums providing over seven months of foliage color
- 286different plants throughout the gardens over the years and an equal number did not survive
- .42acres comprise our property

What's happening in your garden?

1. Tubes from Xeri-Birds provide low volume irrigation.
2. Fresh herbs add depth to the Herbtini.
3. It takes a big magnolia to host 4,000 blossoms.
4. Some of our collection of 98 containers.



Photos by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis.